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Summary record of the 19th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 18 April 2018, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. King (Vice-President) ..... (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Contents

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290 and 68/1

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(e) Environment

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

(i) Geospatial information

(l) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

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In the absence of Ms. Chatardova (Czechia), Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (A/73/69-E/2018/47 and E/2018/11)

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290 and 68/1

1. **Mr. Arvelo** (Chair, Committee on World Food Security), introducing the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, transmitted in the note by the Secretary-General (A/73/69–E/2018/47), said that the Committee was deeply concerned because the 2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report indicated that the global community was not on track to achieve the relevant targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The latest figures compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) showed that global hunger had escalated by 5 per cent in 2016, swelling the number of food insecure to 815 million. Persons were considered to be food insecure if they were unable to produce or buy safe and nutritious food, and did not know where their next meal would come from. Food insecurity overwhelmed a disproportionate number of women and children in the global South, where the main drivers of hunger and malnutrition were human-caused conflict and climate change, and the protracted crises that followed. Millions more would soon have to choose between accepting an early death and escaping their communities and countries in a desperate bid to survive elsewhere. At the same time, malnutrition was fuelling rising rates of obesity in developed and developing countries alike, unleashing an epidemic of endocrine and cardiovascular diseases. In light of those challenges, the international community must take up the fight against hunger with the moral certainty and political courage to which it had committed when agreeing to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 on ending hunger and achieving food security.

2. The reform of the Committee on World Food Security had made it the most inclusive platform within the United Nations system: in addition to its member States, it brought together actors from civil society, the private sector, academia, research institutes, financial institutions, charitable organizations, United Nations entities and other organizations committed to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. Open, inclusive and transparent collaboration was critical to ensuring that the products of the Committee were globally valued. The effective instruments developed by the Committee that were being adopted by a growing number of countries included its Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and its Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

3. The Committee continued to fulfil its coordination mandate, with a view to achieving policy coherence in the area of food and nutrition security. The achievements of the Committee at its forty-fourth session included approving a set of policy recommendations developed by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee, entitled "Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition", which would complement the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. The Committee had also underlined the need to support implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, especially its General recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women. Gender equality and women's empowerment were vital because the barriers that restricted women's ability to achieve their productive potential also endangered the food security of their families, communities and countries. Another outcome of the session had been the Committee's encouragement of all stakeholders to facilitate the dissemination and promote the use of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, a reference document that offered Governments practical guidance on the strategies agreed by the Committee.

4. The Committee would once again send a contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, focusing on three messages. First, enhanced access to natural resources by small-scale food producers would contribute to food security, improved nutrition, stability and resilience. Second, sustainable management of natural resources was critical for building resilience and for mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects. Smallholders were particularly vulnerable to climate change, land degradation and diminishing biodiversity. Thirdly, investing responsibly and inclusively in sustainable food systems should be at the core of rural and urban transformation.

5. While the Committee awaited the results of two studies being carried out by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, on multisectoral financing partnerships and agroecology, it

was undertaking an ambitious project: along with FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), it was following up the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and working to implement the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. Its contribution to the Decade was a package of voluntary guidelines on nutrition and food systems for which it was currently drafting terms of reference. Technical experts agreed that sustainable food security could not be achieved without healthy diets and sustainable food systems; as such, the active participation of all Member States was crucial to the success of the Decade.

6. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition), introducing the report of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition contained in E/2018/11 on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Richter, said that one in three people worldwide was malnourished: overweight, underweight, deficient in micronutrients or a combination of those. All countries were affected; moreover, malnutrition was not distributed equally: certain groups were being left behind. The good news was that the international community had started to address the problem: the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition called for urgent, comprehensive and coherent action and emphasized the need to mobilize more actors for nutrition, which would lead to sustainable change.

7. The United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition looked at nutrition problems holistically, to ensure that the mandates and work of all United Nations member agencies addressed them comprehensively. Its mandate was to ensure the coherence of nutrition policies and advocacy, which included the harmonization of United Nations policies and activities and the provision of global guidance on the harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies and programmes. In 2016, the Committee had been revitalized and a clear scope given to its work: at the global level, it was there for all countries and people, striving to eliminate all forms of malnutrition in an integrated, comprehensive manner based on the United Nations human rights framework. Its four strategic objectives for the period 2016–2020 were to maximize the coherence of United Nations policy and advocacy for nutrition, support consistent and accountable delivery on the ground, track emerging issues that impact nutrition, and share knowledge across the United Nations system. The General Assembly had called on the Committee to play a coordinating role in support of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

8. The Committee had contributed to the integration of nutrition into various policy and governing processes; it had worked with such entities as the Committee on World Food Security, WHO and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. It sought to ensure that nutrition was on the agenda of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In support of its work to maximize coherence between different bodies' approaches to nutrition, the Committee produced discussion papers on topics that went beyond the expertise of individual agencies, and on topics on which agreement had not yet been reached, in order to stimulate discussion in support of policy convergence. The Committee also provided guidance on translating nutrition policies and targets into actions at the country level: for instance, it had developed a guidance note on integrating nutrition into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and emergency works. The Committee had supported the development of the progress report on the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, which would be issued in the coming weeks.

9. In 2018, the Committee would continue working to advance the coherence of the nutrition agenda, including through the biennial progress report on the Decade, the high-level political forum and the upcoming High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. It would convene a special meeting to link nutrition to the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2018 high-level political forum. It would further strengthen the links with its United Nations member bodies, including those, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), which did not have clear nutrition mandates, but could contribute significantly to advancing the nutrition agenda. Such coherence would benefit the implementation of both the Nutrition Decade and the 2030 Agenda.

10. **Mr. Cadena Duarte** (Ecuador) said that food security, nutrition and agricultural development were fundamental to the development of his country. As such, the right to safe access to healthy, sufficient and nutritious food was recognized in the national Constitution. The Government continued to improve food security through food programmes, including a programme for school children and one for those groups lacking adequate access to food. Ecuador stood ready to participate actively in the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

11. **Mr. Sharif** (Sudan) said that his country was an active member of the Committee on World Food Security, and noted that the report just presented by

Mr. Arvelo had been prepared largely when the Sudan had been Chair of the Committee on World Food Security. At the forty-fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security, the Sudan had organized a side event on the state of world food security and nutrition, and noted that such side events often helped to build momentum. An independent evaluation of the Committee on World Food Security had revealed a lack of awareness of its policies and major reports; he urged the Rome-based and other United Nations agencies to respond by stepping up efforts to make its work known. He also stressed the importance of developing and implementing food security policies at the national level. The Committee, along with all stakeholders, must find innovative ways to mobilize resources for food security. As a member of the Bureau of the Committee on World Food Security, the Sudan would continue to actively support its work.

12. **Mr. Jakobi** (Germany) said that it was essential to make the work of the Committee on Food Security known in New York. Its work was pivotal to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, especially ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, which was key to sustainable development more broadly. Highlighting the valuable coordination role of the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition, he encouraged all Member States to contribute to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, since nutrition was critical to the achievement of many development goals.

13. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that better coordination with the Rome-based agencies was needed. Coordination was especially important in view of the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system, as those agencies contributed expertise to country teams. The Rome-based agencies should be more involved in the thematic work of the Council and more visible in the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

14. FAO had been supporting the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in particular its very active working group on family farming. CELAC was preparing for its fifth Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming by, inter alia, continuing to implement the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025. The support provided by FAO in that regard was a good example of cooperation between a Rome-based agency and a regional group.

15. Coordination on nutrition was vital. The upcoming High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases would provide a chance to put nutrition on the agenda. The Commission on the Status of Women had also addressed the related issues of land ownership, productivity, and food security at its sixty-second session under the theme of empowering rural women and girls.

16. **Mr. Obermeyer** (World Health Organization), speaking also on behalf of FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), said that both the Committee on World Food Security and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition were making valuable contributions to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. The forthcoming voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition to be produced by the Committee on World Food Security would be a substantial contribution to the Decade, while coordination by the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition would strengthen its implementation. The first report on the implementation of the Decade would be presented to the General Assembly at its current session.

17. He commended the efforts by the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition to support discussion of nutrition across United Nations governing bodies and committees, and the recent achievements of the Committee on World Food Security, including its policy recommendations entitled "Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition" and its commitment to rural women under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Food security and nutrition must remain high on the agenda in New York, given the role of the United Nations in the global follow-up and review of such processes as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda. Although nutrition was enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 2, it was, in fact, a cornerstone of the entire 2030 Agenda.

18. **Mr. Arvelo** (Chair, Committee on World Food Security) said that, as in Ecuador, the right to food was enshrined in the Constitution of the Dominican Republic. All Member States must incorporate that right into their national legislation. He welcomed the leadership of China and Germany in facilitating the conduct of the ongoing independent external evaluation of the Committee's work.

19. The commitment undertaken by CELAC to eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2025, five years before the deadline set by the international community, was commendable. Greater cooperation between Rome- and New York-based agencies in enhancing food security should be promoted by strengthening collaboration among their secretariats and

ensuring that ministries of foreign affairs and agency representatives communicated directly on realizing the right to food.

20. **Ms. Oenema** (Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition) noted with appreciation that Ecuador had been one of the first countries to formulate concrete commitments to implement General Assembly resolution 70/259 on the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. The 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases would provide important opportunities to discuss issues related to food and nutrition. In conclusion, she welcomed the collaboration among the member agencies of the Standing Committee.

21. **Mr. Sharif** (Sudan) said that he shared Mr. Arvelo's concern regarding the recent increase in the number of hungry and food-insecure people worldwide. The Sudan had significant agricultural and natural resources, including arable land and water, as well as weather that was conducive to the cultivation of a variety of crops, and in 2014 his Government had launched an initiative to enhance food security in the Arab world. He called on United Nations agencies to provide technical assistance and expertise to support the implementation of that initiative.

22. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (A/73/69–E/2018/47) and the report of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (E/2018/11).

23. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(e) Environment (A/73/25)

24. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), introducing the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP on its third session (A/73/25), said that the session, held in Nairobi under the theme "Towards a pollution-free planet," had been attended by representatives of 157 Member States and of a number of United Nations system entities, major groups, secretariats of environmental conventions and other stakeholders. The United Nations Environment Assembly had welcomed the pledges made by more than 2.3 million individuals worldwide to take action to reduce pollution as part of the "Beat Pollution" campaign launched by UNEP, and the Assembly's high-level segment had featured four leadership dialogues among the world's ministers for the environment and a multi-stakeholder dialogue on topics related to combating pollution.

25. The United Nations Environment Assembly had adopted a ministerial declaration in which it had expressed its determination to prevent, mitigate and manage pollution by encouraging scientific research and improving data capacity; increasing the dissemination of public information and enhancing transparency; supporting science-based decision-making in the public and private sectors; promoting cooperation in the implementation of relevant multilateral agreements; fostering inclusive and sustainable economic productivity, innovation and job creation and the development of environmentally-sound technologies; encouraging sustainable consumption and production patterns by raising awareness among consumers and making it easier to reuse products and services and to reduce waste; advancing policies and approaches designed to ensure the environmentally-sound management of chemicals and waste; and working with local governments to promote the use of sustainable models of urban development in order to address pollution. The Assembly had also adopted eight draft resolutions calling for accelerated action and strengthened partnerships to combat various types of environmental pollution. In addition, it had adopted a draft resolution outlining the process whereby it would contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including by incorporating into its agenda a standing item on the matter and by ensuring that, during the forum, the President of the Assembly conveyed the main messages agreed upon at its sessions.

26. Enhanced synergies between the Council and the United Nations Environment Assembly were required to ensure system-wide integration of the Assembly's work as well as follow-up and review of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. And the institutional links between the United Nations Environment Assembly and the high-level political forum should be leveraged to achieve the outcomes of the Assembly's third session and contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, the Council and the high-level political forum might wish to consider the ministerial declaration and resolutions adopted at the Assembly's third session during deliberations on their own draft ministerial declarations. Member States could also consider measures to prevent pollution on the

Organization's premises and in its operations, including by reducing reliance on single-use plastic products.

27. When the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, considered the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly (A/73/25), it would examine the shortfall in regular funding for the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly arising from the expansion of its membership, pursuant to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (A/RES/66/288, Annex). While the United Nations Environment Assembly currently relied on voluntary contributions to maintain its universal membership, it was uncertain whether such contributions would be adequate to fund future sessions and support the participation of developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States. In conclusion, he commended the President of the Council for participating in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

28. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that, at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, his delegation would focus on finding new ways to ensure the participation of all Member States, in particular those that did not have permanent representatives in Nairobi, in all stages of the negotiations of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including preparatory meetings. He welcomed the efforts of UNEP to support the participation of such countries through innovative mechanisms that enabled them to follow the deliberations remotely. The inputs of UNEP into the deliberations of the General Assembly and of the Council during the high-level political forum must be strengthened, in line with the relevant resolution of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Indeed, the five Sustainable Development Goals that would be addressed at the 2018 high-level political forum were directly related to the environmental dimension of sustainable development. In conclusion, he asked whether a theme had been chosen for the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

29. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) said that the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Assembly was considering ways to enable the participation of all delegations in all stages of the Assembly's negotiations. The Assembly's fourth session would be held under the theme "Innovation of sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production".

30. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP on its third session (A/73/25).

31. *It was so decided.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (E/2018/45)

Draft decision: Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee

32. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee", contained in chapter IV of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fifteenth session (E/2018/45). She took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

33. *The draft decision was adopted.*

34. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fifteenth session (E/2018/45).

35. *It was so decided.*

(i) Geospatial information (E/2017/46)

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee

36. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee", contained in chapter I, section A of the report of the Committee of Experts (E/2017/46). She took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

37. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(l) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

38. **The President** recalled that the Council, in its resolution 2000/32, had reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the

Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States.

39. The Council had decided to continue its consideration of the issue under agenda item 18, "Economic and environmental questions", taking into account the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council. No advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 18 (l) and there was no draft proposal before the Council.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2018/L.7)

Draft decision: Application of the intergovernmental organization Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research for observer status with the Economic and Social Council

40. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Application of the intergovernmental organization Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research for observer status with the Economic and Social Council" (E/2018/L.7). The draft decision contained no programme budget implications. She took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

41. *The draft decision was adopted.*

42. *The President* said that efforts must be made to strengthen the Council's role as a forum for constructive policy dialogue while preserving those aspects of its work that functioned effectively. In that connection, Council members must participate actively in coordination and management meetings, as they provided a unique opportunity to examine the work of the Council's subsidiary bodies and functional commissions.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.